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In the Claims

~~Sub. B1~~ Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

(Amended) A method for operating a gaming device including a plurality of symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a list of award-yielding symbol combinations of said plurality of symbols in a controller;
- (b) randomly generating a first set of the symbols from the plurality of symbols;
- (c) providing an award for each award-yielding symbol combination appearing in said first set;
- (d) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in the first set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol in the first set with one of the plurality of symbols to generate a second set of the symbols; and
- (e) providing an award for each award-yielding symbol combination appearing in said second set regardless of whether said award yielding symbol combination in the second set appeared in the first set.

~~Sub. B2~~ Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in the first set for individual replacement includes selecting at least one predetermined symbol for individual replacement.

~~Sub. B2~~ Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of individually replacing the symbols includes an animation of the symbols which are replaced.

~~Sub. B2~~ Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine having a plurality of reels, the symbols are on said plurality of reels and the step of individually replacing the symbols includes individually replacing the selected symbols without spinning the reels.

[Please amend Claim 5 as follows:]

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine and wherein generating the first set of symbols includes generating symbols from the plurality of symbols on at least one payline.

[Please amend Claim 6 as follows:]

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine and wherein generating the first set of symbols includes generating symbols from the plurality of symbols on a plurality of paylines.

[Please amend Claim 7 as follows.]

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein generating the first set of symbols and second set of symbols is part of a bonus game.

[Please amend Claim 8 as follows:]

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the symbols are playing cards.

[Please amend Claim 9 as follows:]

9. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of replacing each selected symbol in the first set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one selected symbol in the first set, and wherein each wild symbol functions as one of the plurality of symbols.

[Please amend Claim 10 as follows:]

10. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of replacing each selected symbol of the first set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least two selected symbols in the first set, and wherein each said wild symbol sequentially functions as at least one of the plurality of symbols.

Please cancel Claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Sub. B3>
AP

Please amend Claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols on said reels, wherein when the first set includes a wild symbol, the step of replacing each selected symbol includes individually replacing one of the other symbols on the reels, wherein said wild symbol functions as one of the plurality of symbols.

Sub. A1>
AP

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of replacing each selected symbol in the first set includes substituting a wild symbol for a plurality of symbols on one of said reels, wherein each said wild symbols function as one of the plurality of symbols.

Please cancel Claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Sub. B4>
AP

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols on the reels, and wherein when the first set of symbols includes a wild symbol, the step of replacing each selected symbol in the first set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one other of the symbols in a row of symbols of the reels of the slot machine, wherein said wild symbol functions as one of the plurality of symbols.

Please cancel Claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Sub BS >
A

Please amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method for operating a gaming device including a plurality of symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining in a controller of said gaming device a list of award yielding symbol combinations of said plurality of symbols;
- (b) generating a set of said symbols, wherein one of said symbols in said set is a first wild symbol;
- (c) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set including the generated wild symbol which functions as one of the other symbols to maximize the award yielding combinations;
- (d) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in the set except for the first wild symbol in the set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol with a second wild symbol; and
- (e) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set, including the wild symbols which replace other symbols and functions as one of the symbols to maximize the award yielding symbol combinations.

Please cancel Claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Sub. D&P >
A

Please amend Claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols thereon, and the step of individually replacing each selected symbol in the set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one selected symbol on the reel which includes said generated wild symbol.

[Please amend Claim 20 as follows]

20. (Amended) ~~The method of Claim 17, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols thereon, and the step of individually replacing each selected symbol in the set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol of one row of symbols on the reels, wherein said row which includes said generated wild symbol.~~

[Please amend Claim 21 as follows]

21. (Amended) ~~The method of Claim 17, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols thereon, and the step of individually replacing each selected symbol in the set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on one of the reels and at least one symbol on one of the rows of symbols on the reels, wherein said reel and said row include said generated wild symbol.~~

[Please amend Claim 22 as follows]

22. (Amended) ~~The method of Claim 17, wherein the gaming device is a slot machine including a plurality of reels having said symbols thereon, and the step of individually replacing each selected symbol in the set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one other predetermined generated symbol.~~

[Please amend Claim 23 as follows:]

23. (Amended) A method for operating a gaming device including a plurality of playing cards, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining in a controller of said gaming device a list of award yielding playing card combinations;
- (b) generating a set of playing cards, wherein one of said playing cards in said set is a wild card;
- (c) providing an award for each award yielding playing card combination appearing in said set including said generated wildcard which functions as one of the cards to maximize the award yielding combinations is said set;
- (d) selecting at least one but not all of the cards in the set except for said wildcard for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected playing card with another wildcard; and
- (e) providing an award for each award yielding playing card combination in said set including the wildcards which function as one of the playing cards to maximize the award yielding combinations.

Please cancel Claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

[Please add Claim 25 as follows:]

25. (Newly added) The method of Claim 1, wherein the steps (a) to (e) are provided to a player through a data network.

[Please add Claim 26 as follows:]

26. (Newly added) The method of Claim 25, wherein the data network is an internet.

[Please add Claim 27 as follows:]

27. (Newly added) The method of Claim 17, wherein the steps (a) to (e) are provided to a player through a data network.

Sub. B6
[Please add Claim 28 as follows:]

28. (Newly added) The method of Claim 27, wherein the data network is an internet.

[Please add Claim 29 as follows:]

29. (Newly added) The method of Claim 23, wherein the steps (a) to (e) are provided to a player through a data network.

30. (Newly added) The method of Claim 29, wherein the data network is an internet.

[Please add Claim 31 as follows:]

Sub. B6
31. (Newly Added) A method for determining an award in a gaming device including a plurality of symbols and a plurality of award yielding combinations of said symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) randomly generating a first set of said symbols;
- (b) providing a player an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said first set;
- (c) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in said first set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol with one of the symbols; and
- (d) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said second set including all award yielding symbol combinations in the second set regardless of whether an award was provided for such award yielding combinations in the first set.

[Please add Claim 32 as follows:]

Sub. DS>

32. (Newly Added) A method for operating a gaming device including a plurality of symbols and a plurality of award yielding combinations of said symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating a set of said symbols, wherein one of said symbols in said set is a first wild symbol;
- (b) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set, wherein said wild symbol functions as one of the symbols to maximize the award yielding symbol combination in said set;
- (c) individually substituting a second wild symbol for at least one but not all of the symbols in said set except for said first wild symbol; and
- (d) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set, including each award yielding combination including said wild symbols and wherein each wild symbol functions as one of said symbols to maximize the award yielding symbol combination in said set.

[Please add Claim 33 as follows:]

33. (Newly Added) A method for operating a gaming device, including a plurality of playing cards and a plurality of award yielding playing card combinations, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating a first set of playing cards, wherein at least one of said playing cards in said set is a wildcard;
- (b) providing an award for each award yielding playing card combination appearing in said set;
- (c) causing any wildcard in said set to individually function as one of the playing cards in said set to maximize the award yielding playing card combinations; and
- (d) providing an award for each award yielding playing card combination of said set, regardless of whether any award for said award yielding combination was provided to a player in step (b).

[Please add Claim 34 as follows:]

sub. B7 34. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:
a plurality of reels;
a plurality of symbols on said reels, said symbols including at least one wild symbol;
a plurality of symbol combinations that each yield an award if generated by said reels; and
a processor which controls said reels, wherein said processor causes the reels to generate a set of said symbols and wherein when one of said symbols in said set is one of the wild symbols, said processor provides an award for each award yielding symbol combination in said set, wherein said wild symbol functions as at least one other symbol, and then individually substitutes another wild symbol for one of the symbols in said set except for said wild symbol, and provides an award for each award yielding symbol combination in said set, regardless of whether the combination includes a wild symbol, and wherein each wild symbol functions as at least one symbol.

[Please add Claim 35 as follows:]

35. (Newly added) The gaming device comprising:
a processor;
a memory device which maintains a plurality of symbols and a plurality of award yielding symbol combinations, wherein the processor communicates with the memory device to:
generate a set of symbols, wherein one of said symbols is a wild symbol;
provide an award for each symbol combination appearing in said set, wherein said wild symbol functions as one of the symbols;
individually substitute another wild symbol for at least one but not all of the other non-wild symbols in said set; and
provide an award for each symbol combination appearing in said set, wherein each wild symbol functions as one of the symbols.

[Please add Claim 36 as follows:]

36. (Newly added) The gaming device comprising:
a processor; and
a memory device which maintains a plurality of playing cards and a plurality of award yielding playing card combinations, wherein the processor communicates with the memory device to:
randomly generate a set of said playing cards, wherein one of said playing cards in said set is a wildcard;
provide an award for each award yielding playing card combination appearing in said set including said wildcard;
individually change said wildcard to one of the playing cards; and
provide an award for each playing card combination appearing in said set, regardless of whether the processor previously provided an award for said playing card combination and wherein said wildcard functions as one of the playing cards.